

INFORMATIVE SECRET REPORT

COUNTRY Argentina
 SUBJECT Dr. Otto Waldmann, German Chemist

DATE DISTR. 4 October 1948

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1. Dr. Otto Waldmann, a German chemist and veterinary professor who arrived in Buenos Aires from Spain in early May 1948, has a contract with the Argentine government to head the experiments of the National Institute of Aphthous Fever (hoof and mouth disease). This Institute, which is controlled by the livestock section of the Ministry of Agriculture, was created under Waldmann's direction shortly after his arrival in Argentina. He is said to be an expert in the aphthous field and the discoverer of aphthous vaccines which are as yet secret.

2. Waldmann brought with him to Argentina a considerable stock of technical equipment, the transportation charges of which were paid by the Argentine government. His current experiments are being conducted in the modern laboratory of the Instituto Behring de Terapeutica Experimental, where he is serving as the chief chemist of the serum and vaccine section.

Comment: Information dated 1943 reported that the Behring Institute was formed on 1 July 1925 for a duration of 10 years with a capital (German) of 20,000 pesos. Members of the company contributed monthly to the Nazi Party. The purpose of the organization was to conduct scientific investigations on medicine, to exploit the results obtained, and to prepare products and biological formulae. It was allegedly associated with La Quimica Bayer, a company on the United States Proclaimed List.) The Behring company became the property of the Argentine government along with several other German firms which were confiscated during the war.

3. Dr. (fnu) Nagel, who was formerly employed by the Argentine Ministry of Agriculture, is serving as Waldmann's chief assistant. Comment: 25X1A A report of 11 July 1948 revealed that Dr. Heinz Christian Nagel, a veterinary surgeon and son-in-law of Waldmann, would accompany Waldmann from Germany to Argentina.) Some of Waldmann's colleagues were formerly employed by the Behring Institute when it was German-controlled and are believed to have been Nazis.

4. The Argentine government is planning to sponsor an aphthous conference to which scientists from other American countries will be invited to see the results of Waldmann's experiments and discoveries. Although he is highly regarded as an aphthous expert, his experiments are viewed with pessimism in certain Argentine circles. Waldmann, according to source, might be classified as a "moderate" Nazi.

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